DEC 23 1987 1 STATE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE 2 DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE In the Matter of: 3 Docket No. 6606 JAMES L. LAFAVE, ORDER 5 Respondent. 6 7 This matter having been duly noticed for hearing on the 16th day of December, 1987, before Sara M. Begley, Chief Hearing Officer; the Department being represented by Jack Kelly, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the Respondent not appearing in person or through counsel; testimony having been received and 12 documentary evidence having been admitted, the Director finds as 13 follows: 14 FINDING OF FACTS 15 1. Notice is proper in this case pursuant to A.R.S. 16||SS41-1009 and 41-1013; 17

Jurisdiction is proper in this case pursuant to 18||A.R.S. §41-1013;

19

**2**2

**2**3

24

- The Respondent was at all times relevant to this  $20|| exttt{Order}$  a licensed insurance agent in the State of Arizona, and was employed by Mendelsohn and Associates Insurance, Inc., ("Mendelsohn and Associates").
- On or about May 19, 1987, Clyde H. Stockham ("Stockham") gave Respondent a check in the amount of \$1,466.00 as an annual premium for an insurance policy with The Hartford 26 covering commercial rental units in Tucson;
- On or about August 15, 1987, Stockham learned that 5. 28 The Hartford had declined to issue coverage; Respondent had

deposited said premium check into his personal banking account and failed to forward it to any insurer.

5

- 6. On or about July 7, 1987, Mendelsohn and Associates received \$1,430.00 from Respondent through Johnson. Mendelsohn and Associates issued a check in the amount of \$1,430.00 to Stockham.
- 7. On or about May 14, 1987, Richard D. Evans ("Evans") gave Respondent a check in the amount of \$918.00 as an annual premium for insurance coverage with The Hartford on his commercial building and business property;
- 8. On or about July 2, 1987, Evans contacted Mendelsohn and Associates to obtain a Contractor's Bond, at which time Mendelsohn and Associates indicated that they had no record of and transaction with Evans. Respondent had deposited said premium check into his personal banking account and failed to forward it to any insurer.
- 9. On or about July 7, 1987, Mendelsohn and Associates received \$918.00 from Respondent through Johnson; said proceeds were applied by Mendelsohn and Associates to an insurance policy for Evans with another insurance company.
- 10. On or about May 1, 1987, Mrs. J. Madison ("Madison") gave Respondent a check in the amount of \$500.00 for an insurance policy covering her business. Respondent deposited said premium check into his personal banking account and failed to forward it to any insurer.
- 11. Upon Madison's proof of payment to Respondent,
  Mendelsohn and Associates credited \$500.00 to an insurance policy
  for Madison with Scottsdale Insurance Company.

12. On or about July 7, 1987, Mendelsohn and Associates received \$500.00 from Respondent through Johnson.

1

2

3

4

5

7

8

10

11

12

13||

14

15

16

20

21

22

23

24

**2**5

27

13. On or about February 1, 1985, Charles Dipple sent Respondent a check in the amount of \$250.00 for liability insurance coverage. Respondent deposited said premium check into his personal banking account and failed to forward it to any insurer.

- 14. On or about September 16, 1987, Mendelsohn and Associates issued a refund check in the amount of \$250.00 to Dipple.
- 15. On or about December 30, 1985, Jane Wong ("Wong") gave Respondent a check in the amount of \$3,830.00 for business owners insurance coverage. Respondent deposited said premium check into his personal banking account and failed to forward it to any insurer.
- 16. On or about July 25, 1986, Wong gave Respondent a check in the amount of \$4,126.00 for extending coverage. 18 Respondent deposited said premium check into his personal banking account and failed to forward it to any insurer.
  - 17. On or about July 22, 1987, Mendelsohn and Associates issued Wong refund checks in the amounts of \$4,126.00 and \$3,830.00.
  - 18. On or about June 11, 1987, Dorothy L. Harms ("Harms") gave Respondent a check in the amount of \$1,900.00 as an annual premium on a business insurance policy through Fireman's Fund Insurance Companies. Respondent deposited said premium check into his personal banking account and failed to forward it to any insurer.

2

- 19. On or about July 20, 1987, Harms provided

  Mendelsohn and Associates with proof of payment to Respondent, at
  which time Mendelsohn and Associates issued a check in the amount
  of \$1,750.00 to Giberson Fouth-Webb Agency to reinstate Harms'
  prior insurance coverage. The remaining \$150.00 was credited to
  Harms' automobile insurance accounts with Mendelsohn and
  Associates;
- 20. On or about July 7, 1987, Mendelsohn and Associates received \$1,900.00 from Respondent through Johnson.
- 21. On or about June 11, 1985, Howard Findley ("Findley") gave Respondent a check in the amount of \$500.00 for business insurance coverage. Respondent deposited said premium check into his personal banking account and failed to forward it to any insurer.
- 22. On or about June 6, 1987, Findley provided Mendelsohn and Associates with proof of payment to Respondent at which time Mendelsohn and Associates credited Findley's account in the amount of \$500.00.
- 23. On or about August 13, 1986, Frank G. Basurto ("Bursuto") gave Respondent a check in the amount of \$106.00 for an automobile insurance policy. Respondent deposited said premium check into his personal banking account and failed to forward it to any insurer.
- 24. On or about October 21, 1987, Mendelsohn and Associates credited Basurto's account in the amount of \$106.00.
- 25. A license bond dated June 23, 1987, issued to Ideal Builders, Inc. through the American Insurance Company by Respondent purports to bear the signature of Mary K. Erps, notary

public. The signature on this document is not that of Mary K. Erps.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

11

12

13

14

15

21

22

**2**3

24

27

28

- 26. On or about May 21, 1987, Respondent prepared and issued a bond to Ideal Builders, Inc., through The American Insurance Company. Respondent did not have authority to issue or prepare said bond.
- 27. On or about December 22, 1986, Respondent prepared and issued a subcontract performance bond to Bar Steel, Inc., through Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. Respondent did not have authority to issue or prepare said bond.
- 28. On or about March 3, 1986, Respondent prepared and issued a labor and material payment bond to The Desert Makers, Inc., through United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company. Respondent did not have authority to issue or prepare said bond.
- 29. On December 11, 1987, the Department of Insurance received a letter signed by Respondent and his attorney Jim Johnston ("Johnston"). In this letter, Respondent and Johnston stated that they had reviewed the Department's records, and concluded that the records and information therein were substantially true, and that Respondent could not and would not produce testimony at the hearing to rebut, alter or negate the information in the Department's files.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- Respondent has willfully violated provisions of 25 Title 20, Arizona Revised Statutes, as set forth in A.R.S. §20-316(A)(2);
  - Respondent has misappropriated or converted to his own use or illegally withheld monies belonging to policyholders

and insureds received in or during the conduct of business under a license issued by the Department of Insurance of the State of Arizona as set forth in A.R.S. §20-316(A)(4);

The Respondent has conducted his affairs under his license in such a way to show that he is incompetent and a source of injury and loss to the public and any insurer as set forth in A.R.S. §20-316(A)(7);

## IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED:

- That Respondent's license to transact insurance in the State of Arizona is hereby REVOKED;
- That pursuant to the provisions of A.R.S. §20-2. 316(C), Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty of \$2,500.00 per violation, for an aggregate civil penalty of \$7,500.00;
- That pursuant to the provisions of A.R.S. \$20-316, 3. Respondent is ordered to pay restitution to Mendelsohn and Associates in the amount of \$8,596.00.
- Respondent may request a rehearing with respect to this Order by filing a written petition with the Director within 30 days of the date of this Order, setting forth the basis for such relief pursuant to A.R.S. §41-1010(B), and A.C.R.R. R4-14-159.

DATED this 23rd day of December, 1987.

PIERSON, CPCU, Director of Insurance

Chief Hearing Officer

28

```
COPY of the foregoing mailed/delivered this 2500 day of December, 1987, to:
    1
    2
      Jack Kelly, Esq.
      Assistant Attorney General
      402 W. Congress
      Tucson, Arizona 85701
      Hayden Richards, Investigator
      Department of Insurance
     402 W. Congress
      Tucson, Arizona
                       85701
      Robert Zielinski, Assistant Director
     Maureen Catalioto, Supervisor
     Department of Insurance
     801 E. Jefferson
     Phoenix, Arizona 85034
  10
     James Lloyd LaFave
    7712 E. Hampton
  11
     Tucson, Arizona 85715
  12
     Mendelsohn & Associates
 13||4500 E. Grant Road
     Tucson, Arizona 85712
 14
    Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company
 15 || Hartford Plaza
    Hartford, Connecticut 06115
 16
    United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company
 17||P.O. Box 1138
    Baltimore, Maryland 21203
 18
    Fireman's Fund Insurance
 |19||2122 E. Highland Avenue
   P.O. Box 10641
20||Phoenix, Arizona 85064
21 Transamerica Accidental Life Insurance Company
   2101 Terminal Annex
22||Los Angeles, California
                              90051
23 ||Travelers Insurance Company
   One Tower Square
24 Hartford, Connecticut 06183
25 || Central Insurance Companies
   P.O. Box 351
26||	extsf{Van Wert, Ohio}|| 45891-0351
27
28
```